

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 21 DEC 50

SUBJECT Labor Camp at Belene

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) 50X1-HUM

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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50X1-HUM

1. Individuals whom the Bulgarian Communist regime considers politically unreliable or dangerous are placed in the so-called "Troudovi Vuzpitatelni Obshtejitiya," generally known as TBO (Labor Educational Communities), for the alleged purpose of re-educating hardened fascists. This is the Communist name for concentration camps, the inmates of which are subjected to forced labor and inhuman treatment.
2. The island of Persin in the Danube River is located opposite the village of Belene. It has an area of 78,000 dekaras. Until 1949, the island was owned by the County of Belene and was used for pasture land. The island is very marshy and has excellent grass. In June 1949, it was taken over by the State and turned into a camp for political prisoners. Wooden sheds were constructed to house the inmates, of whom there are now about seven thousand. About three hundred Militiamen are assigned to guard the camp and they are quartered in the village of Belene, from where the island is easily accessible by boat. The inmates of the camp are put to work at draining and farming on the island and the mainland.

3. The Commandant of the camp is a certain Major Kurtev

50X1-HUM

4. The following individuals are known to be at this camp presently:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| a. | Petur Surbinski | - Agrarian leader. |
| b. | Asen Surbinski | - Brother of the Agrarian leader mentioned above. |
| c. | Vasil Stoev | - Agrarian, resident of Bela Slatina. |
| d. | General Vulkov | - Retired General |
| e. | Hristo Stoyanov | - Former Cabinet Minister. |
| f. | Petur Bojinov | - Former member of Parliament. |
| g. | Nedyalko Atanasov | - Resident of Slomer. |
| h. | Nikola Alexsiev | - Resident of Belene. |
| i. | Professor Ivan Dobranov | - Resident of Belene. |

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50X1-HUM